

MADONNA WHO KNOWS SOMETHING IS UP
OR DOWN WHEN

dearest on letters
changes to just
plain dear

JOGGING MADONNA

pulls your tendon

NIGHT DEPOSIT MADONNA

gets you winded
makes you

her slot opens in
the night but you
can't get what you
put in her back
until morning

ache gives you
pain and strain

gets yr
achilles' heel

-- Lyn Lifshin

Niskayuna NY

A FAT LADY

a fat lady is sucking the strawberry jelly
out of a doughnut like marrow
from a bone she eats six egg
omelettes her forehead perfect
as a block of cheddar cheese the fat lady
in the circus is becoming
thinner fat peels off her arms
like lemon rind she may even lose
her job already her boss tells her not to
be so lazy to work harder
at keeping herself like a butter
cookie dusted with powdered sugar a fat
lady looks at her ankles as though
they are swollen with goldfish
a fat lady tries not to let her
thighs spread into two continents
on a park bench a fat lady watches
her two young daughters squeeze
their skinny bodies into pink
bikinis a ring of vanilla ice cream
around her lips